

Enhancing Catholic Identity: Introducing the Leuven Project

THCT605: Enhancing Catholic Identity: Introducing the Leuven Project

Ballarat
Semester 2 2025

Contact

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In collaboration with

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THE ENHANCING CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY (ECSI) PROJECT

The Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Project features tools for enhancing Catholic identity in schools within an increasingly secular and pluralising global society.

The ECSI Project offers ongoing international research that gives staff, students and school communities a theological framework to better understand and clarify their Catholic identity and beliefs. The Project provides empirical and practical-theological instruments to measure a school's Catholicity, and in turn, confirm its future direction and practices.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ENHANCING CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY

This suite of programs has been developed by the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), in conjunction with diocesan education partners. The *THCT605: Enhancing Catholic Identity: Introducing the Leuven Project* unit explores contemporary theology in the area of Catholic school identity, focusing on the theology, methodology and pedagogy of the ECSI Project.

It can be undertaken as part of a master's degree at ACU or as an interest-based professional learning activity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Explain the theological foundations of the ECSI Project and the hermeneutic-communicative model.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical framework for the ECSI instruments.
- Interpret data generated by the ECSI instruments accurately and with insight with respect to personal areas for growth.

CONTENT

- Views of the contemporary situation: detraditionalisation and pluralisation
- Theology and tradition
- The nature and purposes of the Catholic School
- The hermeneutic-communicative model
- Undertaking the ECSI survey
- Theoretical and methodological frameworks for the ECSI instruments
- Interpreting the ECSI survey results
- Conditions for authentic dialogue
- Theology as recontextualisation
- Enhancing Catholic School Identity: What do I do now?

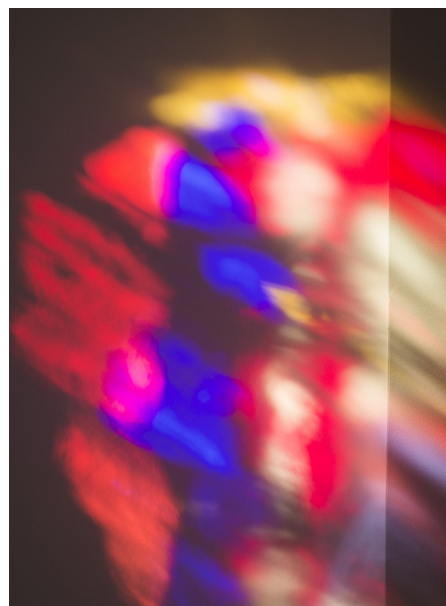
Content is supported by bespoke online resources.

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SCHEDULE

THIS UNIT IS OFFERED IN A BLENDED LEARNING MODE OVER THREE PHASES:

Preparatory phase	Intensive residential phase	Consolidation phase
<p>Participants will complete online activities prior to attending the residential intensive. The completed material is not graded. It will form part of your preparation for assessment in the unit.</p> <p>Preliminary activities open 6 weeks prior to the intensive.</p>	<p>Participants engage in seminars and activities designed to enhance and deepen their engagement with the resources.</p> <p>Participants will develop skills to interpret and act in response to the data generated by the ECSI instruments, and the ability to communicate their understanding in ways that support Catholic schools, educational systems, and communities in enhancing their Catholic identity.</p> <p>The intensive takes place in Ballarat in semester 2 2025.</p>	<p>Participants reflect critically on the personal challenges and implications of the ECSI Project. A webinar will support participants in the completion of the final assessment task prior to the end of semester.</p>



ASSESSMENT

All assessment items relate to real-world situations and opportunities.

Hurdle task: Define the key terms used in the ECSI Project.

Task 1: Analyse data from the three ECSI scales; and discuss some of the challenges posed by the ECSI Project in the contemporary context. Where possible, participants are given the opportunity to work with their own school or diocesan data.

Task 2: Reflect on your personal Catholic identity in light of the aims and purposes of the ECSI Project; identify ways in which your understanding of, and identification with, Catholic identity has changed as a result of your learning in the unit; and reflect critically on the personal and professional implications and challenges of ECSI.

Upon completion of this unit, enrolled students can undertake a second, more advanced unit on the ECSI Project.

2. Individual unit enrolment: Participants may enrol in an individual unit and complete the assessment, without enrolling in a full course. Participants may seek to credit the unit to a relevant future course.

Completing the unit for general interest and professional learning

3. Audit: Participants are welcome to audit the unit and will not be required to complete the assessment. Please note, preference will be given to applicants seeking academic credit for the unit. The assessment tasks are designed to ensure that participants are able to read and interpret ECSI Project surveys with confidence.

“I have only one regret, and it is that I have waited too long to immerse myself in ECSI. These few days... have been so uplifting and energising. The passion in the room is remarkable. I am thoroughly enjoying being present; a rare and valued privilege.”

Past participant

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

Students wishing to undertake this unit may do so via one of the following modes:

Completing the unit for credit

1. Students can seek to enrol in the Master of Theological Studies, Master of Religious Education, or other ACU master's programs (such as the Master of Educational Leadership). Students already enrolled in these programs should contact their course coordinator before enrolling to confirm their eligibility to complete this unit as part of their current studies.